

CLAIMS

1. A laser-markable composition which comprises a pigment, a solvent and a conductive polymer that absorbs IR radiation.
2. A composition according to claim 1, which additionally comprises a binder  
5 having a labile group.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the pigment comprises an multivalent metal that undergoes a colour change due to a change in oxidation state, on irradiation.
4. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the metal  
10 oxyanion is an octamolybdate.
5. A composition according to any preceding claim, which additionally comprises a colour-former.
6. A composition according to claim 5, which comprises a substantially colourless electron-donating dye precursor.
- 15 7. A method for providing an image on a substrate, which comprises applying to the substrate a pigment and a conductive polymer that absorbs IR radiation, followed by irradiation.
8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the irradiation is by means of a laser emitting light at a wavelength of 800-1500 nm.